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## The Churches In Mississippi

Ralph McGill

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# RALPH Mc GILL

## The Churches In Mississippi

Mississippi's malignancy of attitude toward any concessions in the deeply-fixed racial posture



within the state has begun to disturb and concern the leadership of both the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, in and out of the state.

Mississippi, largely fundamentalist

Protestant in doctrine, long has raised one of the loudest voices in behalf of separation of church and state. Yet, today, "the state," through elected local officials, and through the voice of the White Citizens Councils, which are a semi-arm of the state in that they receive state support, have moved ruthlessly to halt what seems to them a "weakness" on the part of some ministers.

Mississippi remains for President Johnson what it was for Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy—the center of the most determined defiance of federal authority in the area of civil rights. South Carolina, and, lately, even Alabama have accepted Negro students at the university level without incident. Mississippi's response to a similar problem was the well-known Oxford riots.

## City Of 2 Liquor Transfers

### 4 Turned By Police

By MARION

The aldermanic committee Wednesday approved two liquor requests, denied four others for further action.

Approved was the one of James H. Kelley, K&I liquor store for Memorial Drive, SE down to 805 Memorial Drive, is the city's eighth with an annual volume of \$725,000.

Also approved (Chick) Hedrick's move from 118 Poole Ave NE to the site of Tuxedo liquor store on Mont road NE.

### TRANSFERS DENIED

These applications were denied:

Charles Peppas, Edgewood Ave. S. Wylie St. SE; Jack from 3-A North Ridge NE to 1299 Moreland James Pete Sotere Memorial Drive SW well road NE and Farmer Sr., from tree road NE to 36 road NE.

### 2 HELD FOR STUDY

Held for further study the transfer requests of Ramos, from 350 W. SW to 3007 Cambridge SW, and Morris Gola

## Newest Move

This newest official move — to thwart decisions by majorities of church congregations — has shaken an undetermined number of Mississippi churchmen and given impetus to some later action at the national level of both Protestant and Roman Catholic organizations.

The inconsistent practice of a minister in the pulpit preaching brotherhood and the unity of Christians in Christ while his ushers turn away Negro worshippers at the door or refuse their children entrance to church-related schools has been greatly reduced in Southern states other than Mississippi. A few newspapers recently published a story about a letter sent to a Lutheran church in a Mississippi city by the city commissioner. The church was about to take a vote on whether to open its doors to all who came regardless of race. The letter read, in part:

"When the votes are counted if there is a minority voting against a mixed audience, and when it becomes a reality, this will constitute, in all probability, a disturbance. This we are going to prevent.

"If anyone comes for the purpose of creating a disturbance, we are going to ask them to kindly move on; if they refuse, we are going to have them put under arrest. If and when this event occurs, anyone (regardless of their official capacity) interfering with any officer of the law performing his duty will also be handled according to law."

## The Congregation

On receipt of this, the congregation, knowing there would be a minority voting against a mixed attendance of worshippers, voted to continue to bar Christians of color.

A number of ministers, chiefly Methodists, already have been driven from their pulpits in Mississippi by an organization of laymen who publicly have committed themselves to oppose any change in segregated church practices and all interpretations of theology that seem to them "liberal."

The Mississippi Register, a Roman Catholic publication, recently gave warning that "the police power of the city is overstepping its bounds to an alarming degree."

"Is it a mere coincidence," the Register asked, "that the White Citizens Councils' declared intention to save the churches has been paralleled by overt action on the part of city officials to interfere in church matters?"

The editorial cited a statement by the Citizens Councils that they stood ready to assist any lay group wishing to maintain total church segregation.

By thus adding the church to their already grass roots control of politics, the state of Mississippi seemingly has given the nation clear warning that federal troops and marshals will again be needed to enforce federal court decisions in the area of civil rights.

6 Edgewood Ave. Memorial Drive SE. Actually, the court not discuss the question to move to 87 Drive, the present the K & I liquor store. The panel was attorney for Kelley porary restraining

Continued on Page

## President Khrushchev

(Copy)

WASHINGTON—Premier Nikita Khrushchev United Nations into for the renunciation

That will be the content of a detailed reply to Khrushchev's Message to all nations for a worldwide truce aggression. The United States intends to send its countries and then sue to the General Assembly Conference, which convenes next Tuesday.

The lengthy U.S. reply probably be published.

### WON'T BE NEGATIVE

Although the administration has already described Khrushchev's proposal as "not objective," it will avoid a negative response.

In essence, it Khrushchev's sent disputing his facts. It will ask him to viet interest in ster beyond unenforceable.

One way to promote settlement of the dispute, Johnson will provide the United States permanent peace.

## Special

## He To

Speaker George that during the 19 he was "offered sand dollars on the House" to postpone bill.

"The request for postponement from o

Last of a

the next morning. "I replied that have anything a scheme and